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INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Wurst-Harr House Survey Number: BA - 2547
12047 Falls, Rd. Cockeysville
 Project: MD 25 over Beaverdam Creek, Baltimore County Agency: FHWA/SHA
 Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name Date
 Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended X
 Criteria: A B XC D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
 Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

According to information prepared by SHA, the Wurst-Harr House does not meet any of the National Register criteria for listing. Based on documentary evidence, the house appears to have been built in the 1890s. It has undergone exterior alterations including the removal of the original front porch and windows. Three other buildings are located on the property. Two of these are of modern construction. The property is headquarters for a well-digging business and much of the yard is devoted to parking lots and equipment storage. The property does not meet Criteria C as the house is a common type for the County (frame, cross gable) at the turn-of-the century and is not a particularly intact representative of the type. The property does not appear to have been associated with any events or people of significance on a local or national level. *In addition, the property is not located in any known historic district.*

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory Form #
and project file

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, SHA

Elizabeth Hannold July 27, 1992
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

R. C. [Signature]
 Reviewer, NR program

27 July 90
 Date

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence
☐ Settlement
☐ Political
☐ Demographic
☐ Religion
☐ Technology
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

Attachment 1
Area Reconnoitered

BA-2547



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIESMaryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory FormDOE yes no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)historic Wurst-Harr House

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number 12047 Falls Road not for publicationcity, town Cockeysville vicinity of

congressional district

state Marylandcounty Baltimore**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> X</u> building(s)	<u> X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> X</u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> X</u> not applicable	<u> X</u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)name G. Edgar Harr Sons Corporationstreet & number 12047 Falls Road

telephone no.:

city, town Cockeysvillestate and zip code MD 21030**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouseliber 7786

street & number

folio 831city, town Towsonstate MD**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Wurst-Harr historic property is the location of the G. Edgar Harr and Sons Well Digging Company at 12047 Falls Road. The dwelling is adjacent to Falls Road just south of the intersection of Falls Road and Beaverdam Run. Three structures and a truck parking area are located northeast of the house and are reached by an access road adjacent to the house. These are two recently constructed utilitarian structures -- a one-story office block and truck garage. A frame garage built around the second decade of the twentieth century is located directly to the rear of the house. The dwelling is the oldest structure on the site, dating to around the turn of the twentieth century.

The Wurst-Harr house is a multi-part ell-shaped frame, two-and-one-half story center-gable cottage. The five-bay entrance facade is oriented to the southwest parallel to Falls Road, with a cross gable interrupting the principle gable roof. This asphalt shingle roof with the same orientation as the principle facade has boxed cornices and returns on the gable ends. The building is clad with asbestos shingles and all of the original fenestration has been replaced with one-over-one sash windows. Whereas, most of the windows are square-headed with molded architraves, the three which are located at the attic level in the gable ends and cross gable are round headed and surmounted by hood or "eyebrow" moldings. This five-bay wide, two-bay deep main section was the original core of the structure. With the construction of the two-bay deep ell on the rear or northeast side of the original structure which a descendent believes occurred in early twentieth century, the cross gable on the rear was altered. A two story porch was removed prior to 1937. More recent changes include the construction a one-story shed roof addition in the north angle of the main block and the ell, the addition of a small Colonial Revival style porch on the front, plus the construction of a one-story, pent roof porch which runs the full length of the southwest side. It shelters a one-story semi-octagonal bay which projects from the southeast end of the principle block. A projecting entrance was also constructed in front of a door located in the east (or northeast) bay of the ell on the same side.

The Harr's reportedly started their well-digging business shortly after acquiring the 39½ acre property in the early twentieth century. The land records indicate that the purchase occurred in 1923. According to the recollections of local inhabitants and Harr descendants, the property was never utilized for farming.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Wurst-Harr house is a simple turn-of-the-century frame, cross-gabled vernacular dwelling which is very typical of the center-gable cottages built throughout Maryland and the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The dwelling retains some integrity despite the replacement sash and the projecting section built to shelter the secondary entrance in the ell. The siting of the dwelling has been degraded by the construction of contemporary commercial and storage structures on the property to house a business, as well as a large area used for truck parking.

The site would not qualify under criterion A of the National Register guidelines as it is not associated with events which have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history or criterion B, as it is not associated with lives of significant persons. Likewise, criterion C would not apply as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, significant in American history, or does it possess high artistic values. As for criterion D, it is unlikely to yield information important in history or prehistory. It is unlikely that the site would be found to retain the requisite level of integrity because of its conversion to commercial use and the resultant degradation of the landscape.

The Wurst-Harr House is located in the eight district, the third largest in Baltimore County. The terrain is moderately hilly. The mineral deposits were recognized as a major source of wealth and were industriously developed in the nineteenth century. Numerous turnpikes threaded through the county: York, Western Run, Delaney Valley and Falls Roads, as they were known in the last century. They were designed to bring in produce, wheat grain, etc., from Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley before the railroad era. In Baltimore County the development of transportation was especially important as Baltimore City required ready access to the surrounding territory for the trade on which it depended. Turnpikes, one of the first conscious

Wurst-Harr House
Statement of Significance (cont'd.)

efforts toward internal improvement, were first authorized in 1787. One of the major thoroughfares was MD 45, York Road. The current York Road is coterminous with the Middle York Road. The successor to this York Road was the predecessor of Falls Road, a part of which became a turnpike. The section of Falls Road on which the Wurst-Harr House is located is north of that section which was operated as a turnpike.

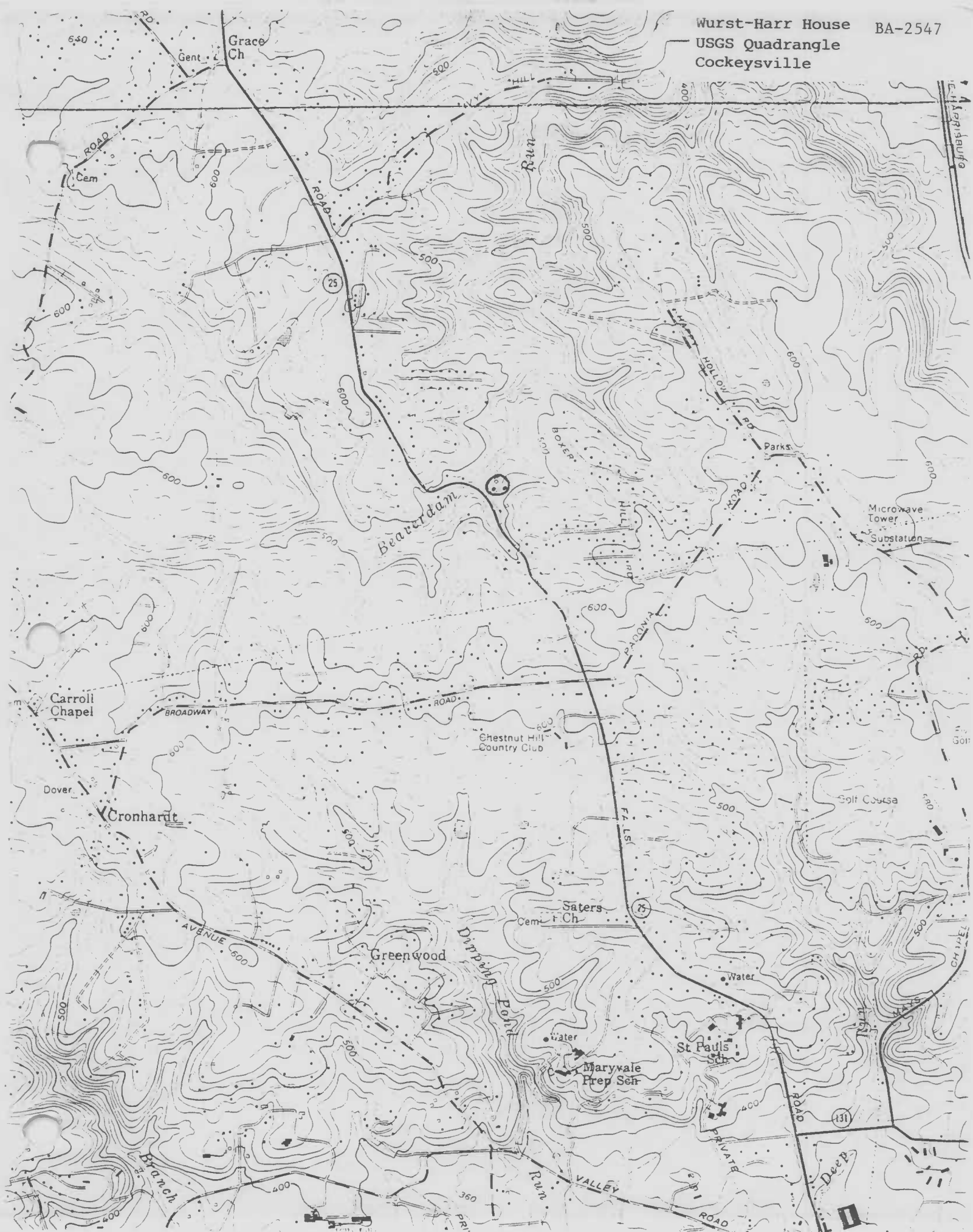
The center gable cottage of which the Wurst-Harr house is an example, developed as a result of applying cross-gables to house forms relating to the Gothic Revival. It conforms to the norm of being rectangular in shape with the wide entrance facade oriented to the street. The typical wide porch, usually embellished with decorative brackets, is missing in the Wurst-Harr House, having been removed a few decades ago. The Wurst-Harr House is typical of thousands of extant examples of this type located throughout the United States.

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Personal contacts with family descendents and local informants/historians

Quadrangle scale _____

H | | | | | | | | | |





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Wurst-Harr House _____
(view of property from Falls
Road)



BA-2547

Hurst - Hall House

East corner



BA 2547

Worst-Hall House
N.E. Elevation



PA-2547

Hurst-Harr House
(junction of Ell and Main
Black - north)



BA-2547

Hurst-Have House

West Corner



BA-2547

Wurst-Harr

(Principle S.W. Facade)



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Hurst - Harb Property
Office of Harb Well Diggers



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Hurst-Ham Property
Garage, Early 20th C.



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Kurst-Harr House

Detail of Entrance